

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01780 180418Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 /098 W
-----008922 181604Z /43

R 170745Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5398
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL MANDALAY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1780

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, BM, BG
SUBJ: BANGLADESH-BURMA BORDER PROBLEM

REF: RANGOON 1752

1. INCONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BEAN ON MAY 17, BANGLADESH
AMBASSADOR KARIM REPORTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT
TO SEND A DELEGATION TO RANGOON AT THIS TIME. (REFTEL REPORTED
THAT AMISSION HEADED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD COME TO
RANGOON THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE BORDER PROBLEM.) AMBASSADOR
KARIM SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CALLED OFF THE VISIT BECAUSE THEY
FELT THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES TALKS WOULD NOT BE
PRODUCTIVE. ALTHOUGH BANGLADESH HAS REQUESTED THAT IT BE HALTED,
THE BURMESE IMMIGRATION SURGEY OPERATION NAGAMIN IS STILL UNDERWAY
AND THE EXODUS OF BENGALIS FROM THE ARAKAN STATE CONTINUES.
AMBASSADOR KARIM CLAIMED THE OUTFLOW HAS INCREASED IN THE
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PAST FEW DAYS. HE THINKS THAT NO MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS CAN
BE HELD UNTIL THE PRESENT OPERATION IS COMPLETED. EVEN THEN,
HE BELIEVES IT IS VERY UNLIKELY BURMA WILL AGREE TO TAKE BACK
THOSE WHO HAVE LEFTT, SINCE BURMA'S AIM, AS HE SEES IT, IS TO
REDUCE MUSLIM POPULATION.

2. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR KARIM, WHO WAS TO DEPART FROM BURMA

THIS WEEK FOR NEW YORK, SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD TO STAY HERE
FOR ANOTHER FIVE OR SIX WEEKS. SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY
WANTS TO HAVE HIM ON THE SPOT WHEN THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IS
HELD, IT MAY BE THAT BANGLADESH IS WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TO RESUME THE DISCUSSIONS.
BEAN

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Message Attributes

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